



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
235<sup>TH</sup> BASE SUPPORT BATTALION  
Unit 28614, Box 0004  
APO AE 09177

AETV-WG-AMF

14 April 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR IMA EUROPE REGION OFFICE (STIM-EU) Unit 29353,  
APO AE 09014

SUBJECT: Nomination – Fire Officer of the Year 2003

1. I herewith nominate Alexander Gernhard, IMA Europe Training Officer, stationed at 235<sup>th</sup> BSB Ansbach Fire & Emergency Services, for the Department of the Army Fire Officer of the Year Award 2003. Nomination is based on the attached justification.

2. POC is the undersigned at 468-1560, or email:  
Jeffrey.King@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jeffrey S. King", is positioned above the printed name.

JEFFREY S. KING  
MAJ, EN  
Director of Public Works

ENCL

Department of the Army, DOD Civilian Fire Officer of the Year Nominee  
IMA Europe Training Officer Alexander Gernhard - 235<sup>th</sup> BSB Ansbach

**Accomplishments: Leading Role in Fire Fighter Education**

- Established an aggressive training program and repeatedly trained 8 IMA-EURO Region Fire Fighters during one week training sessions, leading to a total of 169 Fire Fighters trained in "Real Fire & Rescue" training from April 2002 to November 2002.
- Officer Gernhard was instrumental in, and the driving force behind developing excellent lesson plans for training and education of 400 IMA-EURO Region Fire Fighters and Fire Officers on "Stricom" provided structural and ARFF live fire trainers.
- In addition – trained 120 Volunteer Fire Fighters supporting US Army installations. Training performed during off duty time. Improved Air Crash Rescue support for US Installations.
- Evolved and implemented additional technical features in the Live-Fire Training facility to improve on the job training. Results – wireless remote controls, internal illumination of Structural Trainer, Software updates, Sound system to confront fire fighters with psychological stress, platform for ARFF trainer.
- Initiated the concept to incorporate use of Thermal Imaging Camera into practical fire fighting & rescue drills.
- Developed unique database reflecting personal and training information of IMA-EURO Fire Fighters.

**Job Performance: Performance driven by pride, professionalism and skill**

- Outstanding Teamwork – made IMA Europe Live-Fire Training Facility a "Home of Fire Fighters".
- Quick Reactor – immediate response with Fire & Emergency Services Ansbach Fire Fighters to major incidents and responses requiring additional support.
- Exemplary four-day training course on weekly basis resulted in 99.5 % positive feedback from trainees – measurable results.
- Energetically promoted, initiated and executed IMA-EURO Region Fire Department Workshop with the purpose of streamlining lesson plans, physical fitness and professional implementation of German/American training regulations.

**Technical Competence: Understanding Technology as the basis for professional instruction**

- Highly competent in the mode of operation of structural and ARFF trainers. Training provided is second-to-none in IMA-EURO Region and without technical problems throughout the year.
- Maintains an extremely high level of expertise in all U.S. and German fire codes, and has full knowledge of Maintenance & Service Manuals.
- Has kept Maintenance & Service costs to a minimum level.
- Expertly handles a \$43 K dollar maintenance & service contract for the Live Fire training facilities. Enforces best quality and service being provided by contractor – great benefit for the training program and has the highest usage of Live-Fire Simulator within HQDA, which speaks for itself.

**Leadership Ability: A Team builder by fostering high motivation**

- Motivates his trainees throughout the instruction courses and promotes teamwork, including an appropriate amount of humor.
- Continuously monitors training crew effectiveness and modifies team configuration to maximize their exposure at the live fire training center. Leads by example for the execution of safety regulations and guidelines, resulting in not one injury during 27 weeks of full Live-Fire Training.
- Selected by German Fire Department board "Faculty 4 for Training" to participate in the development of training programs and regulations – this reflects the highest recognition of the US Army Fire Service training program in Germany
- Implemented a comprehensive training program and as a competent instructor, concentrates on the students learning, not on his teaching. Excellent teaching methodology – leads to short and long-term retention of the information provided.

**Initiatives: A Self-starting individual**

- Always keen to improve the Live-Fire Training Center – additional training programs, upgrade of infrastructure and technical improvements on computerized training devices.
- Has a leading function in the German-wide Fire Department board of Fire Fighting schools "Establishment of Live Fire Training Academy's & Live Fire Training Programs".
- Fostered excellent relations with the Ansbach Civilian Community fire departments and is an active member of Volunteer Fire Department to strengthen their emergency response capability and implements his knowledge into their training programs.

**Resourcefulness: Maximizing Resources by sharp-eyed decisions**

- Keeps the cost of instruction and training classes within an acceptable range, even while managing overtime, back fill, comp-time, TDY costs and other issues that substantially increase training costs. He is an excellent Budget planner that makes expert decisions.
- Responsible for the planning of a \$340 K dollar project to construct Phase II of the Fire Training Academy. This project includes the erection of a building with classrooms, office, storage areas, restrooms, lavatories, as well as landscaping and fencing of the training site. His technical expertise and smart negotiations with the project offices maximized the project's scope of work with very limited funds.
- Negotiated and established a contract for the temporary lease of pre-fabricated containers. This temporary facility is used for training until Phase II of the project is executed. He was responsible for the preparation of the site to install containers as well as to prepare infrastructure for their setup.
- Effectively enhances a positive image to IMA-EURO Region Live-Fire Training program by relating and networking with fire fighters and fire departments both within and outside the region. Mr. Gernhard has truly and fully capitalized the opportunity of having local structural and ARFF training simulators.